NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
March 27, 1997

Film Festival

PEOPLES OF THE EARTH: A VISUAL VOYAGE

The Field Museum, Columbia College and University of Illinois-Chicago are collaborating to host the Margaret Mead Traveling Film and Video Festival from the American Museum of Natural History in New York. Titled, "Peoples of the Earth: A Visual Voyage," the festival will take place Friday - Sunday, April 4 - 6, 1997. This presents an excellent opportunity to see an outstanding collection of current works in film with diverse and provocative points of view, and representing different genres--even "fake documentaries" and humorous films. Friday night's program, a reception and screening of Chicago filmmaker Mark Wexler's, "Me and My Matchmaker" will take place at Columbia College's Hokin Auditorium. Saturday and Sunday's program will take place at The Field Museum with two concurrent programs of films being shown from 9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. Staff are encouraged to attend the film festival at the member's rate; we also need helpers to take tickets or assist with other needs during the event. Helpers will have their fee waived. If you would like a brochure or film listing, please stop by **Sandra Blake's** office in Education or call x854; if you are interested in helping with the festival, please call **Maureen Ransom** (x659).

Congratulations!

I am pleased to announce a reorganization and promotion in the Budget Department. **Lisa Wodis** is now Budget Administrator, and in addition to grants and contracts, her responsibilities include operating, special purpose and restricted fund budgets, as well as attendance. A Budget Assistant will be hired to assist her.

As many of you know, a staff shortage at the time of year-end closing and audits resulted in a difficult time for Finance staff, and we've been unable to respond to some of your questions and issues in the last few months. We hope to conclude our two annual audits soon, and then Lisa and the rest of us in Finance will be able to turn our attention to 1997 issues. Thank you for your patience.

Lucy Bukowski

FIELD MUSEUM FAN MAIL

Gentlepersons:

I began filling out your Visitors' Experience Form only to find myself frustrated by the small spaces allowed for answers. We had a wonderful time, and our pleasure can't be contained within that little card.

We have been to the Field only once -- perhaps fifteen or twenty years ago -- when our children were young. At the time, they were tired of "doing Chicago" and our time at the Field was limited. Last Saturday afternoon, my husband and I celebrated our March birthdays by finally getting to see the museum in uninterrupted fashion.

Bev was our greeter when we arrived. What a gal! She was a show in itself, a sort of circus barker and teacher combined. She answered our questions thoroughly and courteously, as did the admissions cashier.

We started with the evolution exhibit. It was excellent, and both of us really loved the "evolution news" broadcasts. The many imaginative, interactive displays made me wish I had my science-mad 10-year-old nephew with us. What a great idea to get local on-air news staff to do the broadcasts! It was slick and very informational. When we got to the dinosaur exhibit, a wonderful volunteer named Sam gave us lots of helpful information. His knowledge and enthusiasm added much to our visit.

As we finished with the dinos, we heard music in the first floor atrium. We discovered the Maori dancers; and after watching and listening to them, we were eager to see the South Seas exhibit. As a high school English teacher, I found fascinating connections between ceremonial customs in Papua New Guinea and what we'd just read in Lord of the Flies, particularly the use of the pig mask in initiating young boys into manhood. The video on applying ceremonial makeup was amazing! I also really enjoyed the meeting house and hearing its history from your two volunteers whose names, unfortunately, I don't remember. One was a young woman, the other middle-aged woman who has been there for a long time. They told me about the impending anniversary party and sleepover scheduled for that evening.

We had time that afternoon to see only those two exhibits, but we'll be back. We were so happy with everything we saw and with your wonderful docents. We were relieved that you have not gone the way of the Museum of Science and Industry, with all those corporate ad gimmicks and the noisy audio accompanying so many of their exhibits. I found our last trip there (about two years ago) very distracting and unpleasant.

Thanks for the wonderful job you're doing. We'll be back soon.

CENTER FOR EVOLUTIONARY AND ENVIRONMENTAL BIOLOGY

PATTERSON AND GOODMAN PUBLISH BOOK

Field Biologist **Steve Goodman** (Zoology) and MacArthur Curator **Bruce Patterson** (Zoology, Mammals) report the publication of their book *Natural Change and Human Impact in Madagascar* last week by the Smithsonian Institution Press. The edited volume, based on presentations made at the Museum's Spring Symposium for 1995, is organized into the following sections (number of chapters in parentheses): Paleoenvironment (3), Biota (3), Extinctions and Degradation (4), Human Effects (4), and The Future of Biodiversity (2). Contributers hail from departments of Geology, Earth Sciences, Botany, Zoology, Anatomy, and Anthropology. The interdisciplinary focus of their articles offers numerous new perspectives on the challenging environmental and conservation issues facing the island. It has also made the volume attractive to the general public--the book has already been reviewed for several natural science bookclubs and Borders has purchased 100 copies for commercial distribution nationally.

The book appears at a time when Goodman must negotiate revised research accords for The Field Museum with Malagasy institutions and government offices. It helps to underscore the major role that The Field Museum has assumed in this field. The editors have waived their royalties on the volume so that 50 additional copies may be distributed gratis to Malagasy academics and officials. Associate Peggy MacNamara (Zoology) will hand-deliver copies of the volume when she departs for the island in early April.

NOON BALLOON

The Noon Balloon presentation for Tuesday, March 25, 1997 was delivered by **Bill Stanley,** Collection Manager, Division of Mammals, Department of Zoology, Field Museum. Bill summarized his recent work in Tanzania. He described participation in teaching a one week course focused on the procedures to sample and analyze biodiversity. The course was held in Tarangire National Park and supported by the Wildlife Conservation Society's long term effort to survey African national parks.

Bill then updated his progress in surveys of the small mammal fauna of the Eastern Arc Mountains, a chain of 50-100 my old upthrusts in eastern Tanzania. Earlier field work had surveyed the East and West Usambara Mountains of the northern portion of the "arc", and the Uzungwa Mountains of the southwestern portion of the "arc", each of which had proven to have endemic insectivores. Although several species of rodents are endemic to the Eastern Arc Mountains, each species had been found at each site surveyed. His most recent survey focused on the Uluguru Mountains which occupy a central position in the "arc". Not unexpectedly, the insectivore species represented a mix of northern and southwestern taxa. Future efforts would be directed to completion of surveys of the Eastern Arc Mountains as well as efforts to link the origin of their small mammal fauna to other areas of central Africa.

CENTER FOR CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND CHANGE

"THE EMPIRE'S NEW CLOTHES" LECTURE BY JEAN COMAROFF

The Center for Cultural Understanding and Change will host a public lecture by Jean Comaroff titled "The Empire's New Clothes: Re-Fashioning the Colonial Subject" on Wednesday, April 2 at 12:00 p.m. in Lecture Hall II. Comaroff, the Bernard E. and Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor, and Chair, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, is an eminent scholar of South African Anthropology. In her talk, Comaroff will be discussing the politics of costumes in museum collections.

WALI ATTENDS ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY FOR APPLIED ANTHROPOLOGY

Associate Curator **Alaka Wali** (Anthropology) attended the annual meetings of the Society for Applied Anthropology (SfAA) in Seattle between March 5-9. She delivered a paper entitled, "Modeling Poverty and Resource Distribution: Failures of Urban Policy" for the invited session, "Modeling the World: Policy Ramifications for Fisters, Farmers, and Scientists." She was also appointed to spearhead the publication of a monograph series for the SfAA.

PANEL DISCUSSION ON "THE CHANGING SHAPE OF BELIEF"

On March 11, 1997, the Center for Cultural Understanding and Change (CCUC) hosted the second panel discussion in the series titled, "The Changing Shape of Belief" at The Field Museum. In the tradition of the Nuveen Forum, CCUC brought together anthropologists with religious practitioners and community leaders to discuss the impact of cultural encounters on Haitian Vodou. The discussion was very lively, drawing more than 100 people from around Chicago. Audience members used examples from the current Haitian Vodou exhibit to engage the panelists in a wide-ranging conversation on global and local influences on religious expressions.

THE KAYAPO INDIANS OF BRAZIL

On March 18, Terry Turner, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Chicago, gave a lecture on the Kayapo Indians of Brazil. His lecture emphasized the video and photographic images of the Kayapo currently on view in the Webber Resource Center.

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions -- in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmppr.fmnh.org -- is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

Do you see your face?

SECURITY CONSOLE MAKEOVER?

In case you've been wondering why you see your reflection when you look in the window of the Security Console, it's *not* because we are providing a service to those who can't find a mirror. We are not starting a contest -- "Guess the Console operator." We want to mask the view of the Closed Circuit Television monitors as we upgrade our CCTV system. We are experimenting with various coatings on the window in an effort to find one that offers the best masking ability, as we add to and relocate some of our camera locations. Let us know what you think as you walk by ... but remember, it's a one-way mirror, so don't do anything embarrassing. -- **Ron Cundiff**

Field museum staff
IN THE NEWS

Congratulations to **Pat Kremer** (Public Relations), whose birthday on Monday, March 17 was duly noted in the Chicago Tribune in George Lazarus' column "On Marketing."

IN THE THEATER

From the *Chicago READER* of March 14, 1997:

> ***THE PERSECUTION OF ARNOLD PETCH*** A Red Orchid Theater. In their second artistic collaboration, Stephanie Nelson and **Lara Furniss** [Field Museum Exhibits Department -- designer for **Living Together**] show they're well on their way to becoming the Lennon and McCartney of scenic design ... her they take simple, recognizable elements -- the spartan furnishings of Arnold Petch's tenement apartment -- and give them a mesmerizing twist ...

Mark your calendars!

The Chicago Bears have announced their pre-season schedule:

July 27 vs Pittsburgh (away)
Aug. 2 vs. Buffalo (away)
August 10 vs. Miami (away)
August 17 vs. Arizona 7:00 pm (SOLDIER FIELD)
Aug. 22 vs. New Orleans 7:30 pm (SOLDIER FIELD)

We can expect the last game to be particularly well-attended, as former Bears' coach Mike Ditka now leads the New Orleans Saints. The regular season shedule should be released in about four weeks. (Thank you to **Gene Dillenburg** for submitting this.)

The Mayor's Office of Special Events
is proud to announce its

1997 Festival Dates:

~~Sears Skate on State Ice Rink~~	~~Nov. 29, 1996- Mar. 2, 1997~~
~~4th Annual WinterBreak Chicago Festival~~	~~Feb. 6- Feb. 16~~
Chicago Neighborhood Festivals	May- Sept.
14th Annual Chicago Blues Festival	June 5- June 8
13th Annual Chicago Gospel Festival	June 14- June 15
17th Annual Taste of Chicago	June 27- July 6
7th Annual Chicago Country Music Festival	June 27- June 28
5th Annual Race to the Taste	June 29
4th Annual Mayor's Cup Youth Soccer Fest	July 19- July 20
40th Annual Venetian Night	July 26
39th Annual Chicago Air & Water Show	Aug. 23- Aug. 24
19th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival	Aug. 28- Aug. 31
9th Annual "VIVA! Chicago" Latin Music Festival	Sept. 13- Sept. 14

(Festival dates are subject to change)

Please call the Mayor's Office of Special Events for more information
at (312)744-3315 TTY: (312)744-2964.
Look for us on the Internet at www.ci.chi.il.us/WM/SpecialEvents/

* Mark your Calendar! * *
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* City of Chicago Richard M. Daley, Mayor *